## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

## AN INTEGRAL TOPSIDE VACUUM PACKAGE

The specification					
one)	is attached hereto was filed on blication Serial No was amended on				
		(if applicable)			
I hereb	y state that I have reviewe sims, as amended by any a	d and understand the column the column terms and the column terms and the column terms are the column terms and the column terms are the column terms and the column terms are th	ntents of the above-ider	ntified specif	ication,
I ackno in accordance w	ovledge the duty to disclose the Title 37, Code of Fede	se information which is a ral Regulations, §1.56(a	material to the examina	tion of this a	pplication
I hereb application(s) as	y claim the benefit under 's listed below:	Title 35, United States C	Code, §119(e) of any Ur	nited States p	rovisional
Provisional App	olication No.	filed on		_	
I hereb application(s) fo application for p	olication No	enefits under Title 35, U ificate listed below and l	have also identified bel	ow any torei	gn
I hereb application(s) fo application for p priority is claim	olication No	enefits under Title 35, U ificate listed below and l	have also identified bel before that of the appli	ow any torei	gn ich
I hereb	olication No	enefits under Title 35, U ificate listed below and l cate having a filing date	have also identified bel before that of the appli	ow any forei cation on wh	gn ich
I hereb application(s) for application for application for application for application for application for application for the following for United States and the following f	opy claim foreign priority be or patent or inventor's certification (Country)  Oy claim the benefit under d, insofar as the subject mates application in the mare ledge the duty to disclose .56(a) which occurred betting date of this application.	enefits under Title 35, U ificate listed below and leate having a filing date  (Day/)  Title 35, United States C atter of each of the claim oner provided by the firs material information as ween the filing date of the	have also identified bel before that of the appliamental Month/Year Filed)  Code §120 of any Unite as of this application is t paragraph of Title 35, defined in Title 37, Co	ow any foreit cation on whe Priority Clair  Yes  d States app not disclosed United States de of Federa	ned No lication(s) d in the

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith BRJAN N. TUFTE (Reg. No. 38,638), JOHN G. SHUDY, JR. (Reg. No. 31,214), JAMES RODGERS (Reg. No. 48,306), MARK SCHROEDER (Reg. No. 53,566), J. SCOT WICKEM (Reg. No. 41,376), GLENN SEAGER (Reg. No. 36,926), DAVID CROMPTON (Reg. No. 36,772), KRIS T. FREDRICK (Reg. No. 42,554), MATTHEW LUXTON (Reg. No. 41,960) and GREG ANSEMS (Reg. No. 42,264). Address all telephone calls to KRIS T. FREDRICK at telephone number (763) 954-5388.

Address all correspondence to KRIS T. FREDRICK at Customer Number 000128.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor	/ Robert E. Higashi	,
Inventor's Signature	Stept 3076	Date 2.2003
Residence	Shorewood, Hennepin County	
Citizenship	US	
Post Office Address	20220 Manor Road	
	Shorewood, Minnesota 55331	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Full Name of Second Joint Inventor, If Any_		
Inventor's Signature	Khu M. Hiwst = fector	Date <u>22</u> , 2003
Residence	Hopkins, Hennepin County	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Citizenship	US	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Post Office Address	25 Monroe Avenue South	·····
	Hopkins, Minnesota 55343	
·	·	
Full Name of Third Joint Inventor, If Any_	Jeffrey A. Ridley	·
Inventor's Signature	$\langle \ \ \ \ \ \rangle \langle \ \ \rangle$	Date
Residence	Shorewood, Hennepin County	·
Citizenship	US	
Post Office Address	20220 Manor Road	
	Shorewood Minnesota 55331	

## \*Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56:

- (a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
  - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
  - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
  - (1) Each inventor named in the application;
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.